GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2743
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
National River Conservation Plan
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to bring all the rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultation is being held with other concerned Ministry in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total number of rivers in the country and the existing arrangement for conservation and management of the rivers; and

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to evolve an integrated approach for conservation of water resources and more effective utilisation of budgetary allocation and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) The Water Resources Information System (WRIS) database developed by Central Water Commission alongwith Indian Space Research Organisation includes 15615 numbers of identified rivers/streams in the country. As per the report published by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in February 2015, 302 polluted river stretches have been identified on 275 rivers based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, a key indicator of organic pollution.

The efforts towards conservation of rivers started with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan in the year 1985. Subsequently, the Plan was expanded to cover other rivers and renamed as National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the year 1995. With the objective to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of river Ganga by adopting a holistic river basin approach, National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has been constituted in February, 2009 as an empowered, planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. This Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programmes, for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Various pollution abatement schemes taken-up under the programmes, inter-alia include interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation facilities, electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. The NGRBA programme along with work of Ganga & its tributaries is with Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR,RD&GR) from 01/08/2014 onwards. Proposals are received from the State Governments from time to time for taking up various pollution abatement works in towns along identified stretches of polluted rivers under the NRCP and sanctioned by this Ministry after due appraisal on the basis of the prescribed Guidelines as well as availability of budget allocations under these programmes. The programmes of NRCP & NGRBA (till 31/07/2014) have so far covered polluted stretches of 43 rivers in 200 towns spread over 21 States. Sewage treatment capacity of 5169 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under these two programmes.

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